

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20

OMB-01 SY-10 OPR-02 CU-04 NIC-01 EB-11 COME-00 PC-04

SNM-02 DRC-01 /201 W

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O 161255Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7462

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMCONSUL UDORN

DIA

DEA HQS

USSAG NAKHON PHANOM

13TH ADVON UDORN

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 16203

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

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TAGS: PINS, TH

SUBJ: BANGKOK SITUATION REPORT AS OF 1700 OCTOBER 16

REF: A. BANGKOK 16102

B. FBIS BANGKOK D160648Z OCT 73

SUMMARY: THE ANNOUNCED DEPARTURE OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER THANOM KITTIKACHORN, FORMER DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PRAPHAT CHARUSATHIEN, AND COL. NARONG KITTIKACHORN, PLUS EVENING TELEVISION APPEALS BY THE NEW PRIME MINISTER, THE PRINCESS MOTHER AND LEADERS OF THE NATIONAL STUDENT CENTER OF THAILAND (NSCT) HAVE HAD A CALMING EFFECT ON THE CROWDS IN THE STREETS OF BANGKOK. THERE WAS NO REPORTED VIOLENCE IN BANGKOK OCTOBER 16. PRIME MINISTER SANYA THAMMASAK HAS TAKEN THE FIRST STEPS TOWARD NORMALCY BY ANNOUNCING HIS CABINET. POLICE LT. GEN. PRACHUAB SUNTHARANGKUL IS WORKING TO RESTORE POLICE ORGANIZATION ALTHOUGH HIS NEW POST IS THAT OF DEPMIN OF COMMUNICATIONS. THE ARMY IS STILL CONFINED TO ITS CANTONMENT AREAS WITH GENERAL KRIT SIVARA IN COMMAND. FORMER DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PRAPHAT AND COL. NARONG HAVE ARRIVED IN TAIPEI. END SUMMARY.

1. THE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT THAT FORMER THAI LEADERS THANOM KITTIKACHORN, PRAPHAT CHARUSATHIEN AND COL. NARONG KITTIKACHORN HAVE DEPARTED THAILAND HAS HELPED CALM THE SITUATION IN BANGKOK. EVENING TELEVISION APPEALS BY PRIME MINISTER, PRINCESS MOTHER AND NATIONAL STUDENT CENTER OF THAILAND (NSCT) LEADERS HAVE ALSO CONTRIBUTED TO THE PRESENT APPEARANCE OF NORMALCY. THE BOY SCOUTS HAVE BEEN CALLED OUT TO DIRECT TRAFFIC AND THEY ARE BEING JOINED BY A FEW UNIFORMED TRAFFIC POLICEMEN. DESPITE PROPERTYHIL OES, BUSES HAVE RETURNED TO SERVICE IN THE MUNICIPALITY. ALTHOUGH GOVERNMENT OFFICES, BANKS, PAWN SHOPS, AND SCHOOLS REMAIN CLOSED, MOST COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISES ARE OPEN FOR BUSINESS. DURING THE EVENING OF OCTOBER 15 THERE WAS A NOTICEABLE LESSENING OF VIOLENCE AND STUDENT INVOLVEMENT IN STREET ACTION. THERE HAS BEEN NO SHOOTING SINCE THE PRATUNAM POLICE STATION BURNED DOWN THE EVENING OF OCTOBER 15. THE RIOTERS HAVE NOT BEEN DISARMED, SO THE POTENTIAL FOR FURTHER VIOLENCE EXISTS, BUT VIOLENCE NOW SEEMS UNLIKELY.

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2. POLICE LT. GEN. PRACHUAB SUNTHARANGKUL IS IN CONTROL OF THE POLICE. HE HAS ISSUED ORDERS TO IMMEDIATELY RESTORE THE METROPOLITAN POLICE RADIO NETWORK. HE HAS ALSO ORDERED TRAFFIC POLICE TO RETURN TO THEIR DUTIES. THE POLICE, WHO BORE THE BRUNT OF PUBLIC ENMITY ARE QUITE DEMORALIZED HOWEVER. THE POLICE STILL ARE NOT IN EVIDENCE IN LARGE NUMBERS, ALTHOUGH THEY ARE FILTERING BACK TO

THEIR DUTY STATIONS.

3. PRIME MINISTER SANYA THAMMASAK HAS ANNOUNCED HIS NEW CABINET (REF B). A SEPARATE TELEGRAM COMMENTS ON IT.

4. GEN. KRIT SIVARA IS IN CHARGE OF THE ARMY, WHICH REMAINS IN ITS CANTONMENT AREAS. THE ARMY SEEMS TO BE RESPONDING TO THE DESIRES OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT TO KEEP A NON-ANTAGONISTIC LOW PROFILE.

5. FORMER DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PRAPHAT AND HIS SON-IN-LAW COL. NARONG HAVE LANDED IN TAIPEI. THE FLIGHT WAS AN UNUSUALLY LONG ELEVEN HOURS WHICH INCREASES SPECULATION THAT THERE MAY HAVE BEEN A LAYOVER ENROUTE.

6. THE KING CONTINUES TO PLAY AN UNUSUALLY STRONG ROLE IN THE PRESENT SITUATION. PRIME MINISTER SANYA IS STRONGLY IDENTIFIED WITH HIM (AN ANALYSIS OF SANYA FOLLOWS IN A SEPTTEL).

7. REPORTERS HAVE RAISED THE ISSUE OF WHETHER THE U.S. INTENDS TO RECOGNIZE SANYA'S GOVERNMENT. WE HAVE REPLIED THAT SINCE THE KING REMAINS AS CHIEF OF STATE, THERE IS GOVERNMENT CONTINUITY AND THUS NO NEED FOR RENEWED EXPRESSION OF OUR RECOGNITION OF THE RTG. WE WILL BE MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS TOMORROW ABOUT A CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT TO THE NEW PRIME MINISTER.

8. IF THE CURRENT CALM PREVAILS, WE INTEND TO DISCONTINUE THE DAILY SITREP WITH THIS EDITION. WE WILL CONTINUE TO REPORT SIGNIFICANT TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS.
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